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January 24, 2011

Representative Walt McNutt, Chairman Joint Long Range Planning Committee State Capitol, Helena, MT

Dear Senator McNutt and Committee Members:

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 1 would like to express their support for the Lateral 26.4 Irrigation Improvement Project. This is a DNRC – Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program application.

This project will convert Lateral 26.4 from an eroding, leaking ditch to pipeline. The lateral (2.3 miles) is in poor condition and loses close to 2,946 acre feet of water / year. This project is part of the ongoing irrigation system improvements that BRIP have been completing since 1997.

With this funding, BRIP will have 70% of their system open lateral ditches converted to underground pipelines. Conversion of open ditches allows farmers to use sprinklers or gated pipe – saving water, labor and reduces costs.

Table as per Hay Houtle

Thanks for your consideration.

James Whitmer, President Ray Roethle, Vice President Ric Holden, Board Member

JW/jgm